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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

**INFORMATION REPORT**

COUNTRY USSR and European Satellites

SUBJECT Implications of the New Soviet  
Agrarian Policy

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In evaluating the turning point in Communist agrarian policy represented  
by Nikita S. Khrushchev's report to the plenary session of the Central  
Committee on 3 Sep 53, two important aspects of the change should  
be kept in mind:

- (a) Although Khrushchev's agrarian reforms will not modify the basic  
structure of the collectivized Soviet agriculture, they will  
nevertheless permit the pursuit of a milder agricultural policy  
in East Europe. Concessions to the peasants in Poland, Hungary,  
Rumania, East Germany and Czechoslovakia should therefore be  
regarded as a long-range policy which these countries have been  
ordered to carry out.
- (b) Such an outspoken admission of past errors in one field, namely  
agriculture, could not have been made without similar critical  
judgment concerning other important sectors of Communist policy.  
These other portions of criticism have thus far been kept  
secret, but further revelations along these lines may be  
expected, for the serious tension in Soviet society is not  
limited to the shortcomings in agricultural production. It is  
most likely that criticism of the police-state methods all  
attributed to Beria and his Ministry will be included in the  
next official announcements, possibly going so far as to  
criticize publicly some of the recent show trials such as that  
of Slansky's in Prague.

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